

& kept hitting him
right there
it helps a little
when I think of him
& what had been my guitar

THE IMPROBABILITIES

Céline & Hemingway
dead on the same day
I wasn't there
certainly not in France in '61
nor in Idaho
just a nice clap-ridden teenager
Kerouac & Judy Garland
both born in 1922
both dead in 1969
it's a lame connection at best
the absurdity of politics
& other bedtime stories
that are taken
so fucking seriously

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

sure
you can scream at your kids
or anyone else in your family
but when you walk out that door
seal it up buddy
the machinery has been in place
for a long time
television has been selling out
since 1948
newspapers bring you the daily formula
of murder & sentiment
there is nowhere you can go
for realistic information
you're only free to choose
which brand is for you

PAMPLONA '67

I recently bought yet another biography
of Ernest Hemingway
the two female clerks
smirked at each other
it's true that he made an ass of himself

from about 1932 on
some of his work however
cannot be dismissed with a smirk
those few days in Spain
watching Antonete
Paco Camino
& El Cordobes
was one of the greatest experiences
I've ever had
needless to say
it would never have happened
if Ernesto had disliked bullfighting

I'LL BLAME IT ON THE HOLLYWOOD BLOCKADE

never get near civilians
that's their term for us
one of them got into my cab
I enjoyed one of his films enormously
because of James Woods
I mentioned that
which may not have been very diplomatic of me
he expressed an interest in my stuff
even invited me to come by
which I did
with a small sample of my wares
he didn't buzz me in
I stepped out of the hall & looked up
he was peering out from the blinds
he said something or other
it was all pretty vague
just like his acting style

FOR YOU AMBROSE

right out front
we would've disagreed about most things
but then
standards have changed a bit
since the 19th century
basically you were a journalist
who also wrote short stories
mostly about The Civil War & the occult
I don't read you
but I just love to read ABOUT you
it's your sarcasm
seeming lack of bullshit
that biting wit
everything about you
except your writing